(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to sanction a long term flood relief/restoration project to control this unabated calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Flood Management is a State subject. The schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities out of their State Plan funds. However, the Central Government is also assisting the State Governments through various centrally sponsored schemes in order to enable the States in flood management works. The Government of India has been providing financial assistance to the Government of Orissa through Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "Improvement of Drainage in the Critical Areas of the country" under which an amount of Rs. 7.75 crore has been released to Government of Orissa upto 31.11.2006 during Tenth Plan.

Talks with Nepal on construction of dam

†2249. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress report regarding talks between India and Nepal for construction of dams and taking other measures to check the damage due to floods in rivers like Kosi, Kamala, Bhagmati, Ghandak etc. flowing through Bihar towards India from Nepal;

(b) whether talks have been held with the new Government of Nepal in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for holding talks with Nepal and implementation of outcomes thereof in view of the seriousness and losses caused by such floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with the Government of Nepal through various institutional mechanisms for advancing bilateral co-operation in water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

resources including the areas of flood mitigation, control and management on the rivers flowing through Bihar towards India from Nepal. As a long term solution to the flood control on rivers Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati in Bihar, construction of three high dams is under consideration with Nepal and field investigations are in progress.

As per the understanding reached between the two countries, a Joint Project Office (JPO) has been set up at Birat Nagar (Nepal) in August, 2004 for carrying out field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report for the Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme. The studies for Storage Dam on river Kamala and Bagmati Multipurpose Project are also being carried out by above JPO.

After taking over by new Government in Nepal, process of holding bilateral talks on Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, inundation problems in the adjoining border areas etc., have been started through Embassy of India in Kathmandu and the dates of bilateral talks are being finalized.

Charging farmers for using ground water

2250. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to charge the farmers for using the water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this may increase the suicides of farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Restoration of old canal system in Bihar

2251. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether canal irrigation system in Bihar has collapsed due to silting and their improper upkeep